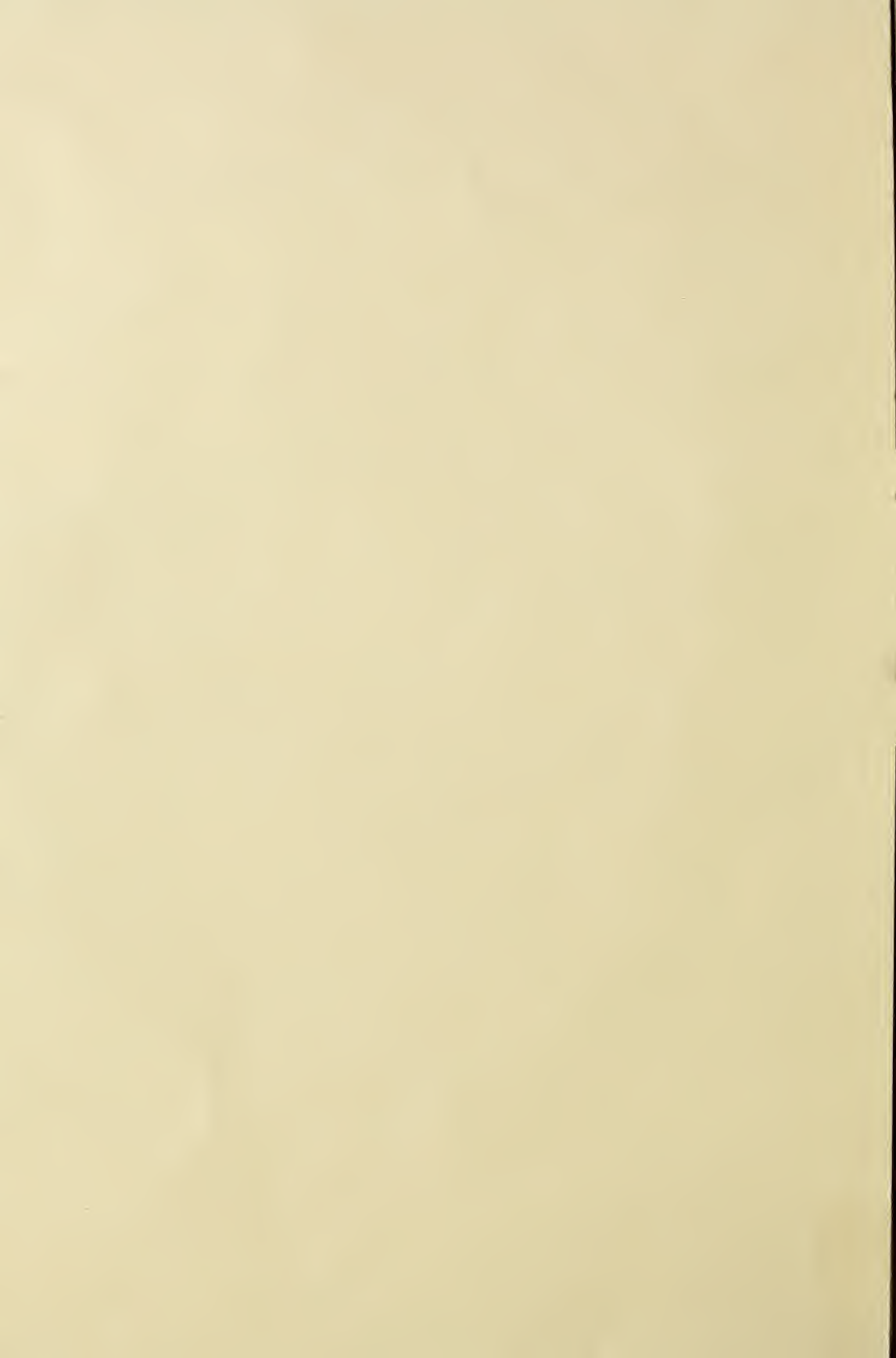


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Agriculture; Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

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No. 5.

#### THE TOWNSHIP SYSTEM.

We observe by our State Exchanges that the advantages of and objections to the Township System are being very generally discussed. In anticipation of what may be done in this direction, by the approaching constitutional convention, it is important that this subject should be placed before the people in every part of the State, and all its arguments weighed carefully. We have repeatedly in years gone by referred to this subject in our columns, and given such items as seemed conclusive to our minds of the great advantages to be derived from its adoption.

We wish now to refer to one or two objections which have appeared in our State in reference to it.

The first objection seems to be the multiplication of officers which this supposes. It is very true that many more officers will be necessary; but this insures much more thorough work, a better regard for individual interests, and a surer award of justice to all the citizens, better protection and much better care of every part of the

country as to roads and bridges. It has also been demonstrated that this has all been accomplished at much less cost to the people, than under the present system prevailing in Maryland. No one under the Township System can possibly get a large salary, and it has been proved from actual statistics, that the entire amount expended in the payment of all these township officers, is often less than what it costs to simply collect the taxes, under the present system.

Some have considered it impracticable in Maryland, because of the sparsely populated portions of the State. They have thought this condition of the country would prevent the carrying out of the township system. This, however, is seen to be a mistake, for everyone who has had the least knowledge and experience of the matter, will be able to point out the fact that it has existed in our country for 200 years or more, from the days when the wilderness was much the greater part of the land, and yet has worked to great advantage everywhere and at all times. Even at present some townships, at their

annual gatherings, number but 40 or 50 voters; but it would be impossible to convince them that any other system could give them such a direct voice in the management of their own affairs, with anything like the economy in point of taxes.

One of the many advantages of the township system is, the very general interest it creates as to public affairs, and the consequent certainty of securing the best service by the best citizens. The inhabitants have the feeling that they are benefitting their own homes, and when they come together in town meeting their consultations are for the general good. They act more as if they constituted one large family; their individual farms being only apartments where they may be dwelling; the town itself being the great home building which they all have in charge, and the honor and welfare of which is the great object and labor of each one.

We cannot enlarge here upon the more efficient service of schools and roads which are the invariable result of this system; of the protection against pleuro-pneumonia and other farm diseases which it secures; of the diminution of taxes which has always accompanied this system; and of the general prosperity as to public affairs which have usually attended it.

IF any one will go over a corn-field in spring after frost is out of the ground he will find many of the corn-stubs tilted over by the frost, and all so loosened that they uproot easily. This shows that they lie mainly near the surface, and gives a hint as to the best method of culture during the growing season. With flat culture the roots stand firmest. Where a mound of earth is made around the corn the frost almost entirely uproots it.

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To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

### SPRING WORK—EDUCATION—REFORMING OUR FAIRS, &c., &c.

DEAR OLD FARMER.—I have been thinking of writing you a good long communication on a great variety of subjects; but the days have passed without my being able to devote the attention to the subject, which your excellent magazine deserved. Even now I can give you only a few of the many items which present themselves for mention.

#### SPRING WORK.

May will be the greatest month for Spring planting, and it should be preceded by a thorough preparation of the ground. The plowing and harrowing should not be treated as child's play; but it should be done in a thorough manner. Especially should the harrowing be continued until you think you have done enough of it, and then do just as much more of it. This will give you a well worked piece of ground, into which the sun, and air, and dews will penetrate, and if it is in a passably rich condition, it will bring a crop in spite of wet or drought. A vast amount depends upon the proper preparation of the soil, before the crop is placed in its keeping. When some one tells me that his crops were a failure because of the drought, I feel certain that his land was plowed in a very superficial way. But I did not intend to write on agriculture to-day.

#### EDUCATION.

I observe that the *Maryland Farmer* has not forgotten the position it took years ago, in behalf of the cause of education, and it still gives its readers occasionally a good reminder of the importance of an Agricultural Education. I think the old *Farmer* has done a good work in this direction, and it has reason to be proud of its record. You, Mr. Editor, now approaching the 75th anniversary of your birth, can look back to many years of hard

work in this direction, and I think the retrospect should give you a pleasant feeling of gratification, when you see what you have helped to accomplish. From time to time I have observed that the *Maryland Farmer* has been almost the only paper in our State, which has seemed to understand that education lies at the base of all progress, and that the agriculturist cannot hope to succeed without it any more than any other class. All honor to you, for the stand you have taken and the degree of good you have been able to achieve.

#### REFORMING OUR FAIRS.

I do not know how far back it has been that you commenced to advocate the reformation of our Agricultural Fairs as to gambling, liquor selling, and indecent side shows. But for some years, I have observed that you have in due season had your word of sturdy and fearless admonition in reference to these things. At first your suggestions seemed only the occasion of laughter, and few thought it worth while to read them a second time. But you have kept at work and the influence has gone out until other papers have commended it, and some of the best agricultural fairs in our State have adopted your views, and have excluded these things from their grounds. This has been truly one of the greatest works you could have accomplished, for its effects are far reaching. It goes into every home throughout each county which adopts your views and teaches these an excellent lesson of the best moral character. I think your mission here has been a blessed one. Commending when public opinion was wholly opposed to you and when every other paper ridiculed the possibility of such a reformation, you have been able to make a powerful impression upon the people and in many cases secured the practical adoption of your suggestions. I feel like congratulating you upon this happy result of your labors.

#### A CONSERVATIVE PUBLICATION.

Notwithstanding these movements of your Excellent Magazine, in behalf of education and sound moral influence; yet the tone of the publication has always been of a conservative nature. I mean by this, you have not recommended novelties to your readers before you have been convinced that they were worthy of trial. Some things have found in you very early, a strong support; but they were of that character which convinced you that they were eminently useful. Such was the silo and ensilage. I think you were one of the very first in our country to give any extended notice of this work, and your description of the silo was copied extensively. But being of this conservative character your readers have been able to rely perfectly upon your statements, and any who have adopted in practice anything you have commended have had no cause to complain of you. So many papers have been of that nature that anything new, whether practicable or not, would be stated as positively as though to doubt it would be a great sin. But this has not been the *Maryland Farmer*. Its Editor has not been satisfied with plausible novelties; they must prove themselves of practical value before they can receive his sanction.

#### ITS SUCCESS.

I am glad to see so many evidences of the success of the *Maryland Farmer*. It is now wearing all the appearances of the settled, successful magazine. Its reading pages in the very best form, and its advertising pages ample and of attractive appearance. Permit me again to congratulate you. I have written you a rambling letter; but the thoughts have come up to me in just this way and I have put them on paper. May you and the *Maryland Farmer* have many happy years before you.

R. H.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

### THE UNKNOWN SOURCE OF NITROGEN.

For years your readers have been familiar with the warning voice I have given regarding the purchase of lungs, livers, blood, old leather, &c., for the nitrogen they may contain, costing them four and five hundred dollars a ton. Owing to this high price their fertilizers were costing entirely too much money; while there was, owing to its mobile nature moving from place to place, an abundance of nitrogen from an unknown source. This would be supplied to the plants provided the soil was in a proper condition, of a porous and absorbing nature due to the vegetable carbonaceous matter that must be in all fertile soil, so that plants can be supplied with moisture, carbonic acid, and nitrogen. In a late article in the *Country Gentleman* by Sir J. B. Lawes the result of my twenty years experiments have been fully confirmed by his forty, in which he gives the result on a field where no artificial nitrogen had been applied for forty years. I give you some extracts from his paper. The article was read before a scientific association in Berlin, as follows: "On a soil in one of our fields where no manure containing nitrogen had been applied for nearly forty years a crop of lucerne during the last five or six years had from some source obtained about 800 lbs. of nitrogen or between 100 and 200 lbs. of nitrogen per acre, per annum." His eminent assistant, Dr. Gilbert, read the paper and further stated, that within the range of the roots of this deeply rooting plant, the acre of land contained 20,000 lbs. of nitrogen, and yet in the face of this our Agricultural Stations tell us nitrogen has the value of 15 to 20 cents a pound, and in giving the value of a fertilizer place this value upon it, which, along with the so-called soluble

phosphoric acid, carries the value far above its intrinsic value; as I am glad to say many of our best farmers are proving. Only lately our esteemed Judge Robinson of Queen Anne, and Dr. W. H. Decourey informed me they were finding that their crops were securing abundant nitrogen without its application, and they were securing better crops than they ever had previously, by dropping the use of the refuse of slaughter houses. Such results are easily explained: Owing to the usual small percentage of nitrogen in organic matter it takes a large quantity to give the fertilizer the old per centage of 3 to 5, while the inert matter reduces the per centage of phosphoric acid, potash, &c. The dropping of the thirty to forty per cent of organic matter capable of forming a small per centage of nitrogen naturally increases the other plant food of more importance; hence the good results of fertilizers at less than half the cost they formerly paid for this 30 per cent of organic matter. I regret Dr. Gilbert did not give the reason for this collection of nitrogen in the soil and why it is in a purer state than when found in the air. In the air the proportion is one of oxygen to four of nitrogen. A porous soil admitting of a free circulation of air, moisture and heat, cannot be found without a due share of carbonaceous matter. The air meeting this matter oxidizes it into carbonic acid, thereby impregnating the soil with both the two gases—carbonic acid and nitrogen—and of all the compounds or elements found in plant life. Carbon reigns supreme, and for one I firmly believe that carbon, like nitrogen, reaches the growing crop through the roots, notwithstanding, science informs us it goes through the leaves, and the *inorganic* sap is organized there, and the thousands of pounds of charcoal found in an acre of corn got there through the leaves, although only one part in seven thousand is found

in the air surrounding the leaves. This may be one of the biggest objects in botany, but my observations have never enabled me to see it. If the sap is organized before reaching the leaves it will at once appear clear to every one why a porous absorbing soil filled with nitrogen, as Dr. Gilbert proves, and as he has forgotten to say, with a large percentage of carbonic acid, instead of one part in 7000 that surrounds the leaves, with five to ten parts in a hundred that surround the roots. When sugar (sap) is formed it is a well known fact that sugar dissolves many minerals, and, such being the case, it is easy to understand how silica, lime, potash, magnesia, phosphates, &c., reach the leaves and are deposited there from the evaporated sap. Among the many important facts announced by Sir J. B. Lawes and his assistant for forty years, I know of none so important as his last one in stating that from an acre he had secured 200 lbs. of nitrogen annually, on land that had not had a pound applied for forty years. At this rate according to the rating of nitrogen by agricultural stations he had removed from 30 to 40 dollars worth of his soil annually; yet in the face of such an absurd statement I will state that I feel sure that if Dr. Gilbert had examined his soil after each removal of crops as much nitrogen would be found as was there before the planting. It was a great pleasure to the writer to meet Dr. Gilbert during his last visit with his lady to our country, and it is seldom I have met an Englishman of his wide world reputation so unassuming in his manners and conversation; and I repeat here what he told me, that to raise crops by purchased nitrogen would prove unprofitable and impracticable. And this, reader, remember after the most careful, exhausting experiments carried on under the direction of Sir J. B. Lawes, L. L. D., F. R. S., who deserves the thanks of the

agricultural community, even if some mistakes have taken place. Reader, if you have poor, worn out sand and clay, at once proceed to secure a soil. Lighten it up with carbonic acid and nitrogen, and the quickest road to it is by turning under green matter, wild carrots, sorrel, carolina pink, pennyroyal, or any other weed will do the business. No chemist, no analyst can tell whether the organic matter making the soil came from peas, clover, rye, oats, or the weeds spoken of, or the pine, oak, gum, &c., leaves from the woods. Secure a soil that will admit a free circulation of air, moisture and heat, and with a proper supply of carbon (the uncrytalyzed diamond,) you will need no assistance from the slaughter house except the bone, which, with the fifty per cent organic matter, never fails to act.

Rock Hall, Md.

A. P. SHARP.

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#### CULTIVATING POTATOES.

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The Irish potato is one of the staple products of the farm, and when well cared for will produce a large yield, depending somewhat upon the variety. There is probably no one ordinary product of the farm that is more largely consumed than this. The yield depends upon the soil, preparation, manuring, and after cultivation. The potato, while it will grow upon a comparatively poor soil and furnish some tubers, prefers a soil of full average fertility. While it is claimed by some that an old worn-out pasture is suitable for growing a crop in excellent perfection, for ease of planting and after cultivation there is nothing better than a field that has been previously cropped with a hoed crop—corn being preferred—giving a preferable rotation.

Although the potato is a great feeder it is much better that the manure be incorporated with the soil, rather than have it applied in the hill. This is why the crop

will advantageously follow the corn crop, especially if that has been liberally supplied with manure, as it will have become thoroughly decomposed and incorporated with the soil, and is just the fertilizer for the potato. In case enough manure is not already applied to the soil, let a sufficient application be made to the surface before plowing that it may the more surely be mixed with the soil, especially if green manure; but if composted or decomposed manure is used it may be spread upon the surface after plowing.

Let the plowing be to good depth, and as soon in the spring as the ground becomes sufficiently warm. After plowing, whether the manure is plowed in or spread afterwards, the ground should be thoroughly harrowed over to cause a thorough pulverization of the soil. After the harrowing has been done, mark off the field with the horse-plow by means of furrows from two and one-half to three feet apart and to a depth of two or three inches in case phosphate or some commercial fertilizer is to be used, as will be hereafter described. With regard to seed and the present modes of seeding there have been some radical changes within a years past. It is now believed to be established by many carefully conducted experiments, that a perfect specimen of a medium sized potato is the best that can be employed for planting purposes. If it is desirable to hasten the crop, it may be accomplished by getting the potatoes assorted and bringing them into a light warm room that the eyes may be considerably developed before planting. When the field is ready for this part of the labor, cut the potatoes in pieces, each piece having two eyes, and drop one piece in each hill, the hills not to exceed one foot in distance apart. If ashes, plaster, phosphate or any other substance is to be applied in the hill to stimulate early growth, let it be dropped by the side of the potato, and then let

them be covered by running a horse-plow lightly upon both sides of the row, turning two furrows together upon the potatoes. In soils of a heavy character it is frequently very desirable to apply some coarse manure in the hill to keep the soil light; for this purpose horse manure, (having some bedding mixed with it,) is excellently adapted, and will produce very smooth and handsome potatoes. The application is made by strewing it along the furrow upon which the potatoes are dropped and then covered as above indicated. In this way the ground is left slightly ridged, and just as the potatoes are coming up out of the ground, may practice going over the field in the direction that the rows run, with a harrow, which has the effect to loosen the soil and kill all the young weeds without doing any injury to the growing crop. The potato, like other crops, required to be kept free from weeds and any foul growth that would tend to choke the free development of the desired crop. As a general rule, with the harrowing as above indicated, two hoeings faithfully accomplished will be amply sufficient for the potato crop.

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CORN.

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Get the corn planted early, but delay planting until the land can be put in the best order; remembering for this crop especially, nearly all the work it requires in its cultivation, is to be done—if you desire to economize labor—before the grain is put in the ground. If the land be not wet or moist from recent rains, soak the grain in a solution for 24 or 36 hours, drain it and roll in plaster or sifted ashes. The solution may be made of 1 lb. of copperas dissolved in five gallons of hot water, or the same amount of copperas or saltpetre or both with 1 quart of common tar. The latter is said to be a preventive against birds pulling up the young plants, and the

copperas or saltpetre gives to it stimulus in its early stages. Corn well soaked, soon vegetates when planted in a dry, warm soil, and the sooner corn sprouts after being planted the more vigorous will be its early growth. Plant corn with a corn planter, or roll the rows heavily; or if covered by the hoe, pat each hill hard, so as to compact the earth above and around the grain. If rain or other causes prevent the planting of corn after it has soaked for a day or more, then rolled in plaster or dry leached ashes, or well-slacked lime, it will do to plant a week after. If well sprouted it will almost immediately appear above ground after being planted. It has a wonderful tenacity of life—we have seen a sprout bore like a gimlet through a solid clay lump four inches thick, and make a vigorous growth, bursting the clod by its innate force as it grew in size. Yet while corn will vegetate under difficulties it is best to have its bed soft and the soil well pulverized. Badly prepared corn ground requires great and constant labor to keep down weeds and get the land in order, and in doing so, the corn is more or less retarded in growth, if not killed outright.

One important matter is too often neglected by farmers in planting corn; they are not careful enough to get good seed of a prolific variety. The seed should be changed every few years unless very carefully and judiciously selected annually with a view to its perfection in some one or more particulars. Corn for seed does best if procured from a northern rather than a southern locality unless it is desirable to grow very early corn. In selecting seed corn, that should be chosen which is low-growing with large ears, and shooting near the ground. It should have generally two or more ears to the stalk. No corn should be planted that does not weigh at least 60 lbs. to the bushel, struck measure.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

#### THE CAUSE OF LOW PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS.

The time has long since arrived for the farmer to realize the great incubus and strain that has been keeping all his interests in the most unsatisfactory and unhealthy condition. The most intelligent, industrious and capable among them, after making every honorable effort to stem the current of depression in prices of produce, and meet the onerous demands of unjust discrimination against them by the minority monopolists, knows that individual effort to avert these difficulties has been unsuccessful. If the manufacturer is still to be kept in affluence by an unjust discrimination in his favor, and the farmer, owing to this unjust legislation which has driven his customers from him, is compelled to buy at the additional cost of at least 60 per cent. more than the article could be sold for in open market, what, may I ask, will be the outcome if this condition of things is to continue? The average farmer is at present compelled to stint and economize in every way possible to enable him to live at all. From my personal knowledge he has but few comforts, and in comparison with the monopolist, for whom he is so heavily taxed, and to whom he is compelled to pay bounty, he has not really *any* comforts. Is it not time for the American people to call a halt in these proceedings? Is the majority of them, who are farmers, to continue making bricks without straw, and consent without a murmur of disapproval, to be driven by their task-masters to the polls, and there cast a ballot that will fasten the fetters still more firmly upon themselves, all in the name of freemen? It is not the silver question that effects the price of our cereals, it is the effect of unjust legislation making it prohibitory for the American people to receive from those

who were the farmers best customers, goods manufactured by those customers. England owing to this unjust discrimination has opened up sources of supplies that were almost unheard of before, and can now furnish us with wheat from India nearly or quite as cheap as we can produce it ourselves. If the farmers will only act together and send the right kind of representatives to legislate for them, and in their true interest, this very serious evil would be materially lessened, and in time the farmer regarded as entitled to the position he is so worthy to fill.

I very much hope, Mr. Editor, that the efforts you have so earnestly made to induce the farmers to organize, will prove successful, as in this way alone can they accomplish success.

Respectfully yours,  
T. R. CRANE.

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#### FORMATION AND RENOVATION OF LAWNS.

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BY PETER HENDERSON.

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One of the first conditions for a perfect lawn is, that the land be perfectly drained either naturally or artificially. If the subsoil is sand or gravel, so that water can quickly pass through it, then there will be no need for artificial drains; but if there is a stratum of adhesive clay for a subsoil, then drains are indispensable every fifteen or twenty feet. As the formation of the lawn is the foundation of all subsequent operations, it is imperative that it be carefully done; for if badly done at first it cannot be changed or altered, unless to the great detriment of trees or shrubs that have been planted, or flower beds or walks that have been laid out.

The first thing to be done is to get the ground shaped to the desired grade, taking care, in grading, that when hills or rocks are removed, sufficient subsoil is also removed to be replaced with top soil, so

that at least five inches of good soil will overlay the whole in all places; and where trees are to be planted there should be twice that depth of good soil. When the grading is finished, if the nature of the ground requires it, drains should be laid wherever necessary; and then the whole should be thoroughly plowed, a subsoil following in the wake of the common plow, until it is completely pulverized. A heavy harrow should then be applied until the surface is thoroughly fined down. All stones, roots, etc., should be removed, so that a smooth surface may be obtained.

#### SODDING.

In sloping banks it is often necessary to use sod, as the rains wash the soil off before the grass seed has had time to germinate. It is sometimes even necessary, in sodding very steep banks, to use pins eight or ten inches in length to pin the sods in place, to prevent them from being washed down by excessive rains before the grass roots have had time to fasten in the soil. In small yards sodding is often done so as to get immediate results; but in all such cases great care should be taken to see that the sods used are of the proper quality, otherwise it is much better to wait a few months for the lawn seed to produce the lawn.

#### FERTILIZERS FOR THE LAWN.

The question of fertilizers for the lawn is an important one. If the soil is naturally a deep, rich loam, it is not indispensable that manure at all be used the season of sowing, although in every case it would be an advantage, and is really essential if the soil is poor or light. Perhaps the best way to apply well-rotted stable manure, is to spread it thick enough to cover the ground after plowing or digging, and then harrow or rake it in; but when cost is no special object, the best plan to insure permanency for the lawn is

to use, as above, from 2,500 to 3,000-lbs. of coarse ground bone per acre, or in that proportion for lesser areas, as the bone decomposes slowly. This quantity, harrowed or raked deeply in, would insure a "velvet lawn," under ordinary circumstances, for six or eight years without further application of manures.



MOWING.

Mowing should be begun in the spring as soon as the grass is two or three inches high, and continue every seven or eight days until the cessation of growth in the fall. If the lawn is gone over with the mower once a week, the clippings are best left on, as the sun quickly shrivels them up so that they never appear unsightly; but if mowing is delayed two or three weeks, then the grass must be raked off; and besides the labor of so doing, the rake always more or less injures the lawn during the growing season.

#### Announcement.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, will henceforth be published in the city of Raleigh, N. C. It will re-appear from its new home on the 13th prox.

#### OUR SLEEPING-ROOMS.

It is to be regretted that paperings or carpeting should ever be used in the sleeping-rooms. Alas! what evil is lurking in the area of the four square walls which encompass us! What enemy is that although trodden upon yet is not subdued? Let the walls of our sleeping-rooms be kalsomined, and the carpets removed from the floors. Let the crevices be carefully filled with putty (any one can do this) and the floor neatly painted or stained. A rug at the bed-side, with small ones at the bureau and commode (Kensington rugs) will relieve the nakedness of the floor. These should be carried out weekly, thoroughly shaken and exposed for an hour to sun and wind. Towels and wash cloths used during the day should never remain in the room during the night. I have seen wash-cloths used day after day in a sleeping-room become sour and musty, emitting a strong odor both disagreeable and unhealthy. The water-can and the entire toilette set must be kept perfectly sweet and pure. I do not mean merely clean to the eye, but clean enough for a chemist's use. Attention must also be called to the tooth-brush, which should always be thoroughly cleansed after using, and placed handle down in an upright holder. I have found odor enough about one tooth-brush to infect the atmosphere of a common sleeping-room. In regard to ventilation, open as many doors and windows as permissible, avoiding a draft; but moving air is absolutely indispensable to the health of the sleeper. Let the bed stand as near the centre of the room as possible, but on no account close to the wall. No one house-keeper may be able to carry out all of these suggestions, but it is the ideal, or house-keeping as it ought to be, which should be held up to the eye of the reader, that each

one may choose what she can best carry out in her daily practice.—MRS. L. J. K. GIFFORD, in *Good Housekeeping*.

#### An Agricultural Society or Not?

A movement was started in this county late last Autumn to form an Agricultural Association, having as one of its objects the holding of annual fairs in the county. The project seemed "to take" so well, and, through the enterprise of several gentlemen, the movement progressed to such an encouraging point, that the formation of the society was almost an assured fact. Negotiations were even commenced for the purchase of suitable grounds. But somehow or other, the matter has become dormant.

A thriving, pushing, wide-awake Agricultural Association would be able to do much for the material advancement of our country. Southern Maryland needs advertising. The tide of immigrants for instance, that is constantly pouring into the West, might be attracted to our productive but badly cultivated lands, if proper steps were taken to do so.

We therefore hope soon to see this county follow the example of the neighboring counties, and we will most cheerfully promote any effort that may be made towards the re-organization of the proposed club.—*Prince Georgian*.

ED.—It is now over 40 years ago, that we enjoyed the great pleasure of a visit to Marlboro, to attend one of its Agricultural Fairs, at that time called a "Cattle Show." The memory always been a pleasant one to us. We were large exhibitors at this Fair, being in the heyday of our prime, and the Farmers of Prince George's were as liberal and generous in feeling and action then as they have always been since. It would please us beyond measure to know that an Agricultural Society was on a permanent basis there, and that all

the necessary steps could be taken for Annual Fairs. No county in our State is more pleasantly situated for good and influential work, and none has more solid, sterling material upon which to build a promising Society.

#### MANURE THE ORCHARD.

It has become quite the thing to recommend low lands for orchard sites. This is contrary to the teachings of the past, and in truth no reason can be assigned why, other things being equal, elevation unfitted land for orchard sites, except that in many cases of late, orchards have done better on low ground than on high ground. It is unwise to jump at the conclusion that the difference in elevation is what gives one orchard more health and thrift than another, when the presumption is in favor of the lower ground. In those regions where it has been lately observed that the lowland orchards have surpassed the highland orchards, frost is the greatest enemy of the orchard and orchardist; and frost, and sudden extremes of temperature, most often occur on low land.

We think the true explanation is that the orchards on the high grounds are soonest starved. The orchard is the last spot on the farm to be manured. While the land occupied by grain and vegetable crops is frequently fertilized, apparently we never think that orchard trees eat as well as tobacco, corn or cotton, and that unless the land is manured, it must in time become exhausted of the elements which the trees take up. More than this, we frequently double-crop this land. We not only occupy it with trees, that are gross feeders, but we plant it in other crops; and these other crops are usually gross feeders also, being vegetables that occupy the ground very closely. Who can doubt that land so treated—occupied by

gross feeding crops and given no manure—must in time become exhausted.

High lands are always impoverished sooner than low lands. The rains carry the soil from the hills to the valleys. Hence while the surface water is continually robbing the high lands, it is giving to the low lands. It follows that cropping will have exhausted the high lands while the valleys yet possess considerable productiveness. Usually, too, the low lands are the more fertile to begin with, as the rains have been carrying fertility to them from the adjacent high lands for ages. It is this action of the surface water, together with our neglect to manure orchard lands, which explains why orchards on low lands do the better. If we manure our orchards as we should, we will have thrifty, fruitful trees on the high lands; and on such lands the trees will be longer lived than on low lands. Of all the lands on the farm, none require manuring more than the orchard.

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#### SETTING THE ASH LEACH.

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Soap can now be bought so cheap that many farmer's families buy instead of making their supply. This is unwise, for cheap soap can be made only from the fat of diseased animals and likely by the addition of injurious chemicals. During the past two years many thousands of hogs have died of "hog cholera" and in many localities their carcasses have been gathered up by the soap factories. The least desirable parts of the carcasses of diseased cattle or sheep, and particularly those received at the stockyards diseased, injured or dead, are made into soap grease. It is true that the chances are overwhelming that all disease germs are killed in the process of manufacture; yet considering the stuff used and the filth which reins supreme in soap factories, it is certainly more agreeable, and I believe it is better,

to use home-made soap than the cheap stuff on the market. Some of this cheap stuff contains chemicals that are destructive to clothing and must be hurtful to the skin. Clean, wholesome soap that will not injure the hands or the clothing can be made as cheaply at home.

In the making of soap, the most important thing is the lye. Our experience has convinced me that there is good ground for the popular belief that the ashes of hard wood make the better lye; and we are careful to save the ashes during the winter, when we burn hard wood mostly. But good lye can be made from the ashes of any wood, providing they are kept dry until they are put in the leach. The quality of the lye depends much more upon the leach than upon the ashes.

After trying several forms of leaches, recommended on account of their cheapness or their ability to extract the greatest possible amount of alkali from the ashes, I have settled down to the use of the old fashioned leach which I have seen used by some since my earliest observations. It is made of a log trough three feet long and about six inches wide and deep, set somewhat inclined toward the open end, on rocks or blocks to bring it up high enough to admit a bucket or jar under the open end. It is put along the central line of a figure five feet square, at the corners of which forked sticks are driven solidly into the ground, the forks being about forty-two inches above ground. Pieces laid in these forks make a pen. The boards are given the proper "bias" and the smaller ends set in the trough, while they are leaned against the pieces forming the pen. The boards should reach about a foot above the pieces. A roof may be made by laying boards across, resting on the ends of the boards forming the sides and the ends; or it may be supported on pieces laid in the forks of four sticks driven in

the ground. This completes the leach.

To set it, first lay two good handfuls of small, straight brush in the bottom (where the boards meet.) Watersprouts make the best brush for this purpose. Over the brush put a layer of coarse straw four inches thick. Then throw in ashes (carefully, that the brush and straw may not be displaced), until they are a foot deep. Moisten them until they will pack solidly. Then take a "tamper" with an end of five to six inches diameter, and tamp them solid. Throw in another layer, dampen and tamp it, and so on until the leach is filled within a foot of the top. Each layer should not be more than six inches thick when tamped; if you put in more than this at one time, you will not get the ashes as compact as they should be. There is no danger of getting the ashes too solid; and upon their compactness, more than upon anything else, depends the strength of your lye. As you fill the leach, keep the ashes somewhat the lowest in the middle; then the water will move toward the trough, not toward the outside. If the boards do not fit very tightly, put a whisp of straw or hay along each crack, to hold the ashes in. If you keep the layers as low as they should be in the middle, when the leach is filled there will be a basin that will hold three or four buckets of water, enough to put in at once. This leach will make lye strong enough to bear a fresh egg, bring a spot of the shell above the surface; and lye of this strength is required to make the best soap. The leach can be made and filled in half a day, and will furnish the lye needed for all the soap, soft and hard, used by the average family in a year. After they are leached, the ashes yet have considerable manurial value. I put them about the grape vines and fruit trees—think they do the most good there.

Quincy, Ill.

JOHN M. STAHL.

#### LIFE ON THE FARM.

Mr. Henry C. Hallowell, of Montgomery county, delivered a pleasing address on "Farm Life" before the Fallston and Wilna Farmers' Clubs, of Harford county, at Fallston, last month. He traced a remarkable similarity between the early condition and advancement in agricultural prosperity of Montgomery and Harford counties. According to the last census the farms of Harford county were valued at \$10,500,000, and those of Montgomery county at \$7,000,000. The value of fertilizers bought in Harford county in one year was \$274,000, and in Montgomery \$335,000. The value of farm products in Harford the same year was \$1,850,000, and in Montgomery \$1,788,000. The number of improved acres in Harford was 167,000; Montgomery, 192,000. Dairy products: Harford, milk, 521,000 gallons; Montgomery, 106,000. Butter—Harford, 628,000 lbs.; Montgomery, 383,000 lbs. Potatoes—Harford, 92,000 bushels; Montgomery, 155,000. Wheat—Harford, 420,000 bushels; Montgomery 616,000.

He advocated the importance of farmers' clubs and other organizations and the value of farmers keeping detailed accounts of their business. The hard times of which farmers complain, he thought, could be ameliorated by paying attention to the little things on the farm. An immense number of eggs, for instance, are imported into this country every year from Holland and England, which ought to be produced here.

Then, again, there is a great waste of fertilizing material from barnyards. By means of cisterns this could be collected, pumped out and spread over grass fields, wonderfully increasing their productiveness. The farm implements, too, should be cleaned, oiled and put away as soon as they are done with.

He also alluded to the agricultural prosperity of Virginia. Thrift, energy and business methods have been introduced everywhere in that State, and, said Mr. Hallowell, "if we don't look out she will soon outstrip us in the race of agricultural progress. In the South cotton was king, and great was the lamentation when the king was dethroned. But the fact is that 30 per cent. more cotton is raised in the South than before the war, and whereas only 10 per cent. of the white labor was employed in raising cotton, now 30 per cent. finds employment in producing it.

"Farm surroundings should be made tasteful and attractive by removing unsightly objects, planting a few flowers, &c. Neatness and order have a higher and better use than mere beauty. They exercise an important part in sanitation."

Mr. Hallowell spoke of the hardships endured by the farmer's wife. The husband has opportunities of mingling with his fellows, while the wife, too often is drudging at home. The farmer should be more careful to see that his better half has some escape from labor by providing her with help at home. "It is a sad commentary on the life of a farmer that a large percentage of the inmates of our insane asylums are farmers' wives and daughters."

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#### COLD STORAGE FOR FRUIT.

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The special committee appointed last year by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Association to examine into the subject of fruit-preserving houses, with the view to recommend the most approved and economical systems for general purposes, reported at the late annual meeting. They found a wide difference of size and arrangement, ranging in cost from \$500 to \$10,000. The \$7,000 fruit house of Dr. Funk is in all respects most to be recommended. It

occupies an area of 40 by 55 feet, and is 20 feet high. The walls are of stone, two feet thick, with a seven-inch air space inside, and inside of this a charcoal lining of four inches. The lower story, or fruit-room, is divided into three apartments eight feet high, with a storage capacity of 3,600 barrels. The temperature is kept at 35° or 36° the year round. The air is dry and pleasant at all times, entirely devoid of drip from the ice stored above. The ice-compartment, or upper story, is twelve feet high, and holds about 600 tons of ice, lifted from a pond below by means of an elevator worked by steam.

At present, cider stored in the structure is as sweet as fresh from the press, and Duchess pears are apparently as perfect as when taken from the trees. A feature in this house consists of the absence of floors between the ice itself and the storage-room, excepting a series of zinc troughs, so arranged that all the drip from the melting ice is caught and carried outside the walls. The cheap structure alluded to is thirty feet square and twenty-five feet high. The first story is built of brick, nine feet high; walls thirteen inches thick, and merely plastered; without either air space or charcoal lining. The ice room above is a frame structure sixteen feet high, and protected with both air spaces and charcoal linings, similar to those described in the preceding house. It has an ice capacity of five hundred tons, and will store nine hundred barrels of fruit. There is no difficulty in keeping sufficient ice all the year round, but it must be thoroughly protected over the top with sawdust or other proper material, and the apartment be well ventilated in the roof. No ventilation, however, is necessary for fruit-room.

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Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

### M. GOFFART'S SYSTEM OF ENSILAGE.

Our readers are aware of the fact that we have taken much pains to place before them the value of this system, and we are glad to have lived to witness its acknowledged success throughout the land.

M. Auguste Goffart is the founder of many large factories, and moreover, he is the inventor of ensilage for corn and all kinds of green fodder, which is equivalent to saying that he can congratulate himself with having done the world greater service than the most brilliant soldier, because the entire human race profits by that improvement in cattle which has followed the general introduction of his method. Every day he receives letters from all parts of Europe and America containing announcements of new applications of his invention. It may truly be said that his name is blessed in all countries.

"The National Agricultural Society of France, an academy of the same rank as the French Institute, older than the century, and having some of the most eminent men in its ranks, has only once awarded this highest of all honors. M. Pasteur obtained it for his immortal discoveries, and with him alone will M. Auguste Goffart share this mark of distinction. It need not be said that M. Goffart belongs to the Legion of Honor. Soon, we trust, grateful France will hear that his ribbon has become a rosette."

Every Farmer having the ordinary amount of stock should see to it that he is provided with a silo, and the present month is the one in which to make his arrangements and do this work. He can make his farm support at least twice as much stock with the silo, as he could handle without it. And this means twice the amount of fertilizers in his barnyard, and a consequent constant improvement of his

fields; less expenditure of money for commercial fertilizers, more prosperity at home, more comforts and a better and happier life.

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

APRIL 4th, '87, Balto., Md.

On looking over some manuscript and notes of over 50 years ago, I came across the following Epigram written 100 or more years ago by D. Garrick, the then great Tragedian and Actor of that age, on "JOHNSONS DICTIONARY"—a book which has been by thousands admired, and still adhered to by our more modern lexicographers.

"Talk of war with a Britain, he'll boldly advance,  
That one English soldier will beat ten of France;  
Would we alter the boast from the sword to the pen,  
Our odds are still greater, still greater our men:  
In the deep mines of science, tho' Frenchmen may toil,  
Can their strength be compared to Locke, Newton,  
and Boyle.  
Let them rally their heroes, send forth all their powers,  
Their verse-men, and prose-men, then match them with ours!  
First Shakespear and Milton like Gods in the fight  
Have put their whole drama and epic to flight:  
In satyres, epistles and odes would they cope?  
Their numbers retreat before Dryden and Pope.  
And Johnson, well armed like a hero of yore  
Has beat forty French, and will beat forty more."

Talking of the great "DICTIONARY JOHNSON," it is said he remarked once of the gallant CHESTERFIELD, that C. was a *wit* among *Lords* but not a *Lord* among *wits*. Thinking these reminiscences would amuse some of your many readers I give them. If not, your nice Journal's waste basket will be a proper mausoleum for such. B.

CATARRH CURED.—A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Dr. Lawrence, 213 East 6th St., New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

## SUMMERTOWN, TENN.

Ed.—Permit a northern man who came here for his health access to your columns.

This is the highland in Southern Middle Tennessee, the highest point between Nashville and New Orleans. It is the healthiest place on the Continent, for purity its freestone springs assure no equal. Health is absolutely catching. We are in one mile of R. R. We enjoy perfect freedom from all malarial diseases, no mosquitoes, salubrious climate, cool nights, freedom from muggy weather, absence of cyclones and heavy winds. Liquors are not sold nearer than fifteen miles, and we intend they never shall be. Our live citizens have perfected an organization and are determined to have a college, and have set apart ground for this purpose, and they will give away two hundred lots to those who will build neat cottages on them. All social evils will be excluded by deed.

This is a resort for health, and capital is coming to develop it. Our soil is fine for all kinds of fruit, vegetables, stock, clover and orchard grass. Parties coming South can get two-third rates on tickets and freights. JACOB. H. CRANE.

## Points in Potato Culture.

In a discussion as to the best manure for potatoes at the recent annual meeting of the New Jersey Horticultural society, the majority of the members expressed themselves as decidedly in favor of chemical fertilizers. The opinion very generally prevailed that stable manure does not produce tubers of good quality. Potato rot was also considered. One member said that the sulphuric acid in chemical fertilizers acts as a partial preventive to rot. Another member advised sulphate of iron (copperas) as a remedy for rot.

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## THE BUSINESS BOOM IN THE SOUTH.

The Chattanooga Tradesman has compiled reports of leading new industries and railroad companies formed in the South in the first quarter of the present year. The reports are as follows: Alabama—Coal and coke companies, 18; bridge works, 4; boots and shoes, 2; brick, 8; cotton mills, 5; compresses, 3; foundries and iron works 12; furnaces, 14; rolling mills, 4; marble works, 2; stove works, 3; water works, 5; street railways, 7; railroads, 14; saw mills, planing mills, etc., 12; potteries, 2; pipe works, 2; electric light companies, 4; gas companies, 4; natural gas and oil companies, 2; locomotive works, 1; ice manufacturing companies, 5; miscellaneous industries, 15. North Carolina—Brick works, 1; furniture, carriage, etc., 5; chemical works, 1; cotton mills, 7; distillery, 1; foundry and machine works, 3; lumber and saw mills, 11; gas works, 5; ice factories, 2; mines, 5; oil mills, 1; railroads, 10; street railroads, 4; tobacco factories, 7; water works, 3; gas works, 5; miscellaneous, 8. South Carolina—Brick works, 1; flour mills, 1; oil mills, 1; railroads, 3; street railways, 1; water works, 2; wood-working establishments, 4; miscellaneous, 3. Tennessee—Coal mining companies, 12; agricultural implements, 2; boot and shoe factories, 2; compress, 1; barrel factories, 3; electric light, 4; furnaces, 5; foundry and machine works, 18; flour mills, 11, gold mining company, 1; ice factories, 3; marble works, 15; oil, natural gas, 3; potteries, 4; gas companies, 2; iron and steel mills, 2; cotton mills, 5; lumber works, 24; agricultural implements, 2; carriage and wagon works, 5; car works, 1; coak companies, 3; tool works, 2; railroads, 20; street railroads, 16; stove works, 2; woolen mills, 3; water works, 3; miscellaneous, 24.

## LIVE-STOCK REGISTER.

### HOVEN.

Hoven is a violent distention of the rumen, or first stomach, by gas evolved from food. It is quite rapid in its course, and in nearly every case has a fatal termination, unless checked. The gas is evolved because the food is not readily digested. Hence a weakened condition of the digestive organs favors the disease. Prevention is much better than cure, and the general health of the animals should be watched. Animals allowed to be in "poor condition" in the spring, on account of exposure, scanty food or poor food, during the winter, are predisposed to hoven. Their digestive organs lack the vigor necessary to dispose of green food. These animals are the more liable to the disease because, also, they eat the more greedily when put upon pasture.

Now as to the food, nine out of ten cases of hoven occur in the spring, because green food most readily ferments and most rapidly evolves gas. When first put upon pasture the animals are apt to eat too much, as the grass is very palatable to them after the long stretch of dry feeding. The first day the cattle are put on grass they should not be allowed in the field longer than half an hour. This time may be increased gradually, until at the end of ten or twelve days they are allowed a full feed. Even then they should not be allowed on the pasture while it is wet with dew or rain. In fact, it is never safe to put cattle on clover while it is wet. Bring them to the barn at night and keep them there till the dew is off. Keep salt always where the cattle can get it. If salt is always within reach, cattle will not eat too much of it.

The trouble is that usually the disease

is not noticed until it has made considerable progress. In the early stages of the disease, chloride of lime, in doses of from two to four drachms, will often give relief, if promptly administered. Another good remedy is a teaspoonful of pulverized charcoal, every fifteen minutes, in one-half pint of water or milk, sweetened with a little molasses. If these fail, then the rumen must be punctured, and for this a competent veterinarian should be got always. If you attempt it, the chances are overwhelming that you will only hasten the death of the animal. S. M. J.

### LIVE-STOCK INSURANCE.

As it becomes known to the owners of Live-Stock, it is felt to be just as important to have stock insured as any other description of property, or as to have your life insured. It is comparatively a few years since Live-Stock Insurance has been introduced in our country, the oldest company in the United States is not yet six years of age. In Europe it has existed for more than 100 years. The Peoples' Mutual of 21 S. Gay St., Baltimore, Md., is the oldest in this country. To give our readers the idea of how this business is conducted, let us suppose that you have a horse which you wish to have insured, and you go to the association to obtain a policy. The proper officer visits the horse, examines him thoroughly, estimates his value, and informs you that he may be insured for three-quarters of his estimated value. You thereupon pay an entrance fee of 3 per cent. on the value of your horse and 50 cents for your policy. This amount is to cover expenses of the association. Becoming a member, you are subject to assessment for losses, not how-

ever to exceed 1 per cent. upon the value of the animal you have insured. The Peoples' Mutual have made only 20 assessments in 6 years—an average of only 4 in a year, while their death record in the Maryland District alone has been 400—covering about \$60,000. This is a very remarkable record, and when taken together with the fact that they pay as promptly as any Mutual Insurance Company of any kind in our country, it accounts for their success. You are under an obligation to report promptly, if your horse is taken sick in any manner, and the association will send their Surgeon to examine into it. If the horse dies, you receive your pay for your policy in full, after the ordinary delays of all such insurance bodies. Persons who have money invested in Stock may have them safely insured in this company.

#### The Iowa Calf Case.

"It is better," says a Georgia exchange, "for farmers to settle disputes outside the court house if possible, as law suits are generally burdensome, financially, to all parties litigant, and seldom fail to create hard feelings and broils in otherwise peaceful neighborhoods. As an example, for a dozen years the famous calf case in the Iowa courts has excited the breathless interest of the American bar and public. Twelve years ago Mr. Potter purchased five calves from a Mr. Johnson, but as they turned out to have been stolen, Johnson was prosecuted by the "Anti-Horse-thief Association." He was acquitted and at once sued seven members of the association for damages. The case has been tried five times, and each time, except one, Johnson was awarded damages ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,500. This week the verdict was set aside. The total court costs amount to \$3,300, and the expenses on both sides aggregate \$20,000. Several persons have been bankrupted. The calves were worth about fifty dollars.

#### APPLE-GROWING IN VIRGINIA,

CHARLOTTEVILLE, VA., Dec. 18.—But a few years ago Europe was a very distant part of the world, and little thought of as a market for even the Albemarle pippin; to-day England is much nearer, and is perhaps the greatest apple market of the world. Shipment, which at first seemed a very complex and expensive business, is a familiar transaction to-day. Freight from Albemarle county to Liverpool is about \$1 17 per barrel, and the commissions for the sale of each barrel amount to 43 cents more, making a total expense for marketing a barrel of apples in Liverpool \$1 60. There is little or no discrimination against the small shipper, as he can ship a single barrel to Europe at an advance of 5 cents per barrel! An Albemarle apple-grower, Mr. Finks Wayland, sold many barrels of Albemarle pippins in Liverpool for \$5 60 net. This is a handsome price, better than the price-currents show, because Mr. Wayland, appreciating the fact that apples should be strictly sorted into grades, is handsomely paid for his evenly-graded fruit. Last year in the sales of 6,000 barrels of choice apples in Liverpool, Mr. Wayland's apples commanded prices ranging from \$1 to \$1 25 per barrel above others.

There are orchards in this and adjoining counties which have produced exceedingly remunerative returns. One may be cited, forty acres or less, which yields annual returns varying from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Another large orchard, under hard conditions, yielded a crop worth \$4,000. The obvious teaching of all this is plain to the far-seeing owners of soils suitable in constituents and locations for orchards of pippins, and many are embracing too long neglected opportunities to plant such orchards, and the industry is sure to broaden rapidly.

## THE BASE BALL CRAZE.

In our youthful days we used to enjoy a game of base ball, and even now it might under certain circumstances have an attraction for us; but when anything becomes a popular hobby and is carried to a great excess, we see danger in it, so that it becomes of interest only from the fact that its excess is to be deplored. Take this present craze, and it can no longer be looked upon in the light of an innocent amusement; it has become a vicious element bringing evils innumerable into the current of our daily lives. We read in our daily papers of 5,000 or 10,000 travelling to the base ball grounds and spending at least half a day, and considerable sums of money to witness a game. Placing a very reasonable sum as the value of the time lost from labor or business, and the aggregate would amount in a single year to enough to pay off our national debt; for this thing is going on in every city as well as our own, and also in every village, town and hamlet throughout the land. Its cost cannot of course be accurately measured; but the amount of the national debt would fall short of the year's cost to the inhabitants of our country.

It should be remembered that it is no longer base ball as an amusement; it is now base ball as a money making pursuit. When a ball player can command the payment of \$15,000 for a few month's play, there must be behind it a large pile of money for the syndicate who pay the salaries at such figures. In addition to this the game is the centre of one of the worst species of gambling, and upon every important game thousands of dollars are staked as recklessly as on any other game of skill or chance. The gamblers in hordes are always gathered to these games and the money is lost and won, to the manifest injury of the individuals, and

the demoralization of the community where the game is played.

The naturally demoralizing tendency of this craze is seen in the paragraph which has been printed as an item of news, where on Sunday, at a game on Long Island it required sixty (60) policemen to break up the game, and then only after considerable rioting and some serious bruises. Where kept within reasonable bounds base ball may be as innocent as any out door and healthful recreation; but when it becomes the centre of money making speculators and heavy gambling, while millions of dollars are wasted upon it, as a fashionable craze, the time calls for a halt. The best influences are of little or no account where this craze is in competition with them. We were at an Agricultural Fair, not long since, and with 10,000 or 15,000 others were listening to a U. S. Senator's very interesting and instructive address, when a game of base ball was announced in another part of the Fair grounds. In a very few minutes the crowd of 10,000 or 15,000 had disappeared, and only a handful of us remained to enjoy the benefit of the Senator's address. The craze had absorbed the crowd. It is thus that it ministers to the lower nature of the masses. It has become an exciting source of money making, a sort of gamblers' paradise, and an instrument to blot out the influences of all refining agents in society. May the craze soon come to an end.

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 Eureka Recitations.
 

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We have just received from the Publishers a copy of number nine of this series of Recitations.

It contains 128 pages, and is bound with a handsome lithograph cover, and will be mailed to any address, post-paid, on receipt of twelve cents in stamps, by J. S. OGILVIE & Co., the Publishers, 57 Rose Street, New York.

### FARMERS AND KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Mr. Powderly, in the labor convention at Harrisburg, proposed to organize Farmers as Knights of Labor, and supersede the present Granges. He says, "A national district made up of Farmers, designed to supersede the National Grange, would be a magnificent accession to our order." No doubt it would be, could they secure such an accession. The main object, however, would be to secure the contributions to the funds necessary to support strikes and boycotts, the entire influence of which are against the interests of Farmers. Farmers are laborers, it is true; but they are also extensive employers of laborers. Every man who owns a farm, or who rents a farm, employs other laborers and must always stand in the position of employer.

The millions of dollars which have been rendered non-productive and the additional millions which have been kept out of circulation by the numerous strikes of the past year, have had no small share in rendering the Farmers' produce of slow sale, and the prices low. They would naturally feel like contributing to some cause for increasing the value of their crops; instead of supporting a horde of idle men, who from their very idleness contribute to depress the prices of everything which comes from the farm. The Farmer is constitutionally opposed to everything which leans towards anarchy, and in every case of strikes and boycotts, the rioting and brutal attacks on others are evidence enough that they are in strong sympathy with anarchy. They may deny it in words, by the mouths of their officers; but the acts of the strikers show that their words are mere sound. It is not necessary to go into detail to show how regardless of all law the strikes become, because the daily newspapers have

been filled with the accounts of their brutal maltreatment of those who would not do as they wished to have them, even to the wilful shedding of blood.

The Farmers of our country should be made aware of the fact that the country will look to them in its great season of need to protect it from these masses of boycotting idlers, who are always threatening it with the very worst forms of anarchy and bloodshed. How soon their active help may be needed none of us can foresee; but if they expect to have any stable and solid possession of their property, they will keep well aloof from every connection with Knights of Labor. We have always felt a sympathy with the workingman to the extent of securing for him by every just and lawful means such wages as his labor was actually worth to his employer, taking into consideration the capital, and the risks and the wear and tear of the employer's property. We still stand in this position; but this does not warrant us in disregarding the Farmer's interests, so far as to remain silent when we see an effort about to be made to entice them to act in behalf of ends which have operated and will always operate against their prosperity.

Grangers had better look well to their own position and interests, and we hope they will have the wisdom to retain their own organization rather than merge it in any specious form of subservience to the Knights of Labor.

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#### The Mississippi Valley Farmer.

The April number of THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FARMER has been received, and contains much practical and interesting matter of great value to the Southern Agriculturist. The number before us is especially attractive, and fully up to the standard. Subscription \$1.00 per annum. Sample copy free. Address, Mississippi Valley Farmer, Memphis, Tenn.

## DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

## HOW CAN FARMING BE MADE MORE PROFITABLE?

A well attended meeting of the Deer Creek Farmers Club was held last Saturday, at the home of Mr. Wm. Webster, near Calvary. Mr. James Lee was called to the chair; Mr. Chas. W. Hanna, Secretary.

The question for discussion was "How can Farming be made more profitable?"

Mr. Webster said that to accomplish the desirable result two things are necessary. In the first place a farmer should plow no more ground than he can cultivate properly and the crops from which he can harvest and house without damage. By applying the same amount of fertilizers to the reduced acreage plowed as is now spread over a large surface, the profit would be greater, because the yield would be increased beyond the increased expenses. Next, a farmer should give personal attention to the little things on his farm.

For instance a farmer may lose a lamb by not being at home when it is born. It is a little thing, but the loss of 20 lambs means \$100. Neglecting to open the mouth of a drain, after a heavy rain, involving perhaps five minutes work, may cause you to break your reaper or mower. Fences should be carefully attended to. A top rail off of a fence may allow your stock to get into a harvest field, and ever after it will be almost impossible to keep them in the pasture. It is in these little things that profit may be found.—Farmers should raise more stock than they generally do—an extra calf, a few more pigs or chickens, will add from \$10 to \$50 to the receipts, enough to pay the extra harvest wages.

Wm. Munnikhuysen thought farming could be made more profitable here if farmers would plow less and keep more stock.

John Moores said that while there is not a large profit in farming there is a good living in it. A farmer ought to have something to sell at all times. Keep out of debt. If you have not money to buy fertilizers don't buy them, and pay more attention to making fertilizers at home. Some members thought a farmer might with profit buy fertilizers on credit. Mr. Moores said a young man might borrow money to buy fertilizers, but if a man has been farming 25 or 30 years and has not made money enough to buy them he had better quit.

Geo. J. Finney thought farming could be made more profitable by attention to details. He also thought free trade would benefit the farming classes.

R. John Rogers said the margin of profit in general farming is very small, but there is a reasonable profit in feeding stock of any kind, except horses; besides by producing manure at home heavy fertilizer bills are saved. If we realize market prices at home for grain and hay it is much better than selling them. On a 100-acre farm manure enough ought to be made for the corn land. Besides, in feeding stock the labor is less than in getting crops to market. On large farms stock can be raised profitably, but on small places the grass had better be fed to something that can be readily turned into money.

Edward P. Moores said many small things might be found profitable on a farm that are neglected. As to fertilizers, a man can buy a certain amount and get profitable returns, but it can be overdone. Fertilizers might be found at home to take the place of bought fertilizers.—For instance a man has a ditch that is filled up. In opening it if the earth is spread over the land it will be of great advantage to corn or wheat.

A discussion then took place as to the improvement by the use of commercial

fertilizers. Mr. Moores remarked that if such fertilizers will make land rich why is it that Harford lands will sell for no more now than they did 20 years ago?

Mr. Lee said the lands here will produce three times as much as they would before the war and were a great deal better than land he had seen sold for \$100 an acre in Allegany county and for \$60 in Talbot county. Our lands are selling for half their value compared with those in some other parts of the State.

The reason why land is so low here, Mr. Janney thought, is the want of railroad facilities. People come here, are delighted with the country, but go away because there is no railroad. Still people won't subscribe for a railroad now that they have an opportunity. Put a railroad through the Deer Creek country and our lands will double in value.

R. Harris Archer thought a man might borrow money to buy fertilizers, if he could thereby increase his corn crop from 10 to 15 barrels an acre but he did not think it would pay to buy fertilizers to increase the yield from 15 to 20 barrels. If a farmer would attend to his business as closely as a merchant or storekeeper does his profits would be greater.

Dr. J. B. Webster thought farmers' profits would be increased if they would use lime and clover to fertilize their lands instead of so much bought fertilizers. Farmers should also raise more stock, get good hands and keep them always busy.

Johns H. Janney said the only way he could see to make farming more profitable is to make the land produce more. This he thought could be done by more thorough tillage before and after crops are planted. He did not think our lands are exhausted with 200 or 300 years' cultivation. Land in China has been cultivated for 2,000 years or more and supports a population of 500,000,000. There must

be some way to keep up fertility. If we would plow a little deeper and pulverize the soil better, the fertilizers would have more effect.

Judge Jas. D. Watters said Providence never intended that farmers should get rich. All that the mass of farmers can do is to make a profitable living. No business that does not incur risks can invite large profits. If we are raising produce at a loss at present prices, there are only two ways to make it profitable. One is to increase prices and the other to diminish the cost of production. We cannot increase prices, therefore farmers must look to the other. For instance, if we can raise 20 bushels of wheat at 50 cents per bushel and come out even, by increasing the yield of our land to 30 bushels we would have some profit. Another way to make farming profitable is to turn our attention to those branches which pay best in our particular locality. No doubt our farmers can devote more attention than they have done to stock raising, but to make it profitable we should have stock of good quality. In breeding horses this is unquestionably important. This thing of breeding to scrub horses with the expectation of getting a phenomenal trotter is nonsense. By using a little judgment it is as easy to raise colts worth \$250 or \$300 at three years old instead of one worth \$75, as it is to improve your land and make it raise 20 barrels of corn an acre instead of five. He did not mean that farmers should raise race horses, but there is a class of roadsters which can be raised with as much certainty as beef cattle. Coach horses and large work horses always bring big prices. If you raise a calf which will sell at three years old for \$40 or \$50 without loss, by improving your stock and raising a three-year old steer which will sell at \$100 there is profit in it. It is the same with cows.

Geo. E. Silver said that at present

prices farming hardly pays expenses, and in looking over this country, with its fertility of soil and vast extent, only needing some one to work it, there is a probability that prices will be no higher, unless we can get a foreign market. Foreign markets, too, are supplied by themselves. The only thing left for American farmers is to produce their crops at less cost. This might be done by the use of improved machinery. We should encourage capital to come into our county and State to manufacture machinery. This will bring labor and give us a home market for our produce. We must practice diversified husbandry as much as possible. Canning, for instance, has done a great deal for Harford county.

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To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

**AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM  
OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT  
OF VIRGINIA.**

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March with its leaden skies, its rough weather, its alternate snows and partial thaws, its mud, wind and cold has ended at last. Sunday, the third of April was the first spring day of the season; the air was mild and balmy, birds began to carol, buds began to smell, and dame Nature seemed juvenal over the return of spring. The intervening days have been marked by cold, raw winds retarding the growth of vegetation and making one feel impatient for the grateful sunshine of to-day. Having moved into a new home with a view of transplanting many shrubs, together with a few fruit trees, we have watched with eager eyes the smallest approach to germination in the few scattered shrubs around, feeling somewhat anxious to begin work. Three moves in five years recalls the old adage of the rolling stone that gathers no moss, yet despite the many changes, bleak skies and stormy weather, our garnered moss in strawberries alone consists of more than four score

strong, healthy and vigorous plants set out last summer and fall, in every conceivable box, bucket, tin can, wooden keg, in fact anything and everything that would hold the plants and keep them alive during the winter either in the cellar or any other shelter.

The poultry yard begins with fifteen hens and thirteen young chickens, our lot is three-fourths of an acre, nearly one-fourth of which will contain the Hennyery and other out-buildings, the remainder utilized as a vegetable garden, a small flower lawn, and some strawberries and grapes, and a few pear, quince and damson trees just planted. A few small apple trees and some peach trees stand around in out of the way places, so as not to retard the growth of vegetation by too much shade. In a few years we shall know with some degree of certainty the value of so small a spot of ground, or how much it can furnish for the support and comfort of a family, in the matter of fruit, vegetables and poultry. A farm in miniature one might call it as it combines in its arrangement some of the advantages of both town and country life, and at the same time will impart a consciousness of not despising the day of small things. Here we may pause to moralise as occasion may suggest, if our lives are to be measured by enlarged success alone, a very large number of the human family would undoubtedly be considered failures, but if we have learned one great fact, by which others have been benefitted, we may have the consolation of not having lived in vain. This truth forces itself conclusively upon the mind, from the fact that in the business of poultry raising alone, the assured success that crowned our efforts awakened a general interest and ambition in the section where we lived until it has become one of the leading industries of that and the adjacent country. In the meantime taking some credit to ourselves for having

introduced some of the improved breeds of fowls. And it is quite pertinent here to remark that in poultry raising as in almost everything else there are monopolies. This to a casual observer may seem discouraging, and indeed is somewhat so, as after watching the hen for three weeks to prevent accident you succeed in getting as a reward of time and labor ten or a dozen fledgelings which by careful nursing and regular feeding for two or three months you can by shipping to a city market, get from twenty to twenty-five cents a pound, and no more, each chick is expected to weigh a pound and a half, for which the purchaser receives after, three dollars a pair. This is somewhat of a grievance, yet if the risks, responsibilities and liabilities of the purchaser are taken into consideration, the supposed profits may only be a chimera of the brain. We therefore sum up the matter, enforced by a large experience, that notwithstanding the inadequate pay as compensation for labor; the rearing of poultry will always be remunerative in proportion to the skill and judgement used in its production, and that the pennies made by the producers may, all things considered, be a larger gain than the dollars of the purchaser's. At any rate we have no sympathy with the vexed questions of the day regarding wage-service and bossism, or any of the difficulties which are the natural growth of man's unhallowed ambition, being careful to "render to Ceaser the things that are Ceaser's," and ever remember the "laborer is worthy of his hire."

Mrs. M. A. G.

ED.—A few more Lady Correspondents, giving their ideas and practical work, as above, would certainly be of more advantage to Agriculture, and the Country generally, than all the reports of Base Ball games, and the thousand sensational items which are read with so much avidity.

## STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BATON ROUGE, LA., 1887.

Major Wm. H. Harris, Commissioner of Immigration, New Orleans, La., read a paper on grass, from which we make the following extracts.

"After the creation of the Heaven and the Earth, when God had lifted the darkness from the face of the deep, and separated the sea from the dry land, we read in the 11th verse of the 1st chapter of Genesis that

"God said, *Let the Earth bring forth Grass!*"

It thus appears, that grass was the first product of the virgin soil, and straightway it spread over the naked earth, and covered it like a garment before the coming of the countless cattle which would subsist upon it.

The first farmers dwelt in tents, and tended their flocks upon wild meadows of natural grass. The pastoral life was primitive, affording food and raiment.

What more did the farmer need, with *free grass*?

*Wealth*, consisted of flocks and herds, and they were the medium of exchange, in lieu of coined money, but with the increase of mankind, land became property, and "free grass" was not available, except in sparsely settled countries. The artificial wants of civilization induced the cultivation of the soil, and stimulated the invention of machinery.

Men, long since, ceased to dwell in tents, but live in palaces, and the virgin sod is broken and cultivated in crops, which are believed to sell for the most money.

In the old world, the system of continuous cropping without rotation and fertilizing, has for years been abandoned for better methods, taught by men of science in agricultural schools and

colleges. In the United States, and especially in the South, the farmers have in the past, persistently adhered to the culture of the *one crop*, supposed to sell for the most money, regardless of its draft upon the *life of the land*.

As a consequence, vast areas in the Northwest have been sown to wheat until well nigh exhausted. When "turned out" only a thin, weak growth of weeds will grow. The virgin soil has been despoiled of its generous supply of plant food, and there is nothing left upon which grass can feed. In that latitude, there is little hope for the reclamation of the land, until occupied by a dense population, who will use expensive commercial fertilizers, to induce the grass to grow, and revive the lands.

Dr. George Vasey, the Botanist of the United States Agricultural Department, has compiled a list of 589 species of grass in the United States. Most of them grow in the South, but I do not propose, in this paper to inflict upon my audience the enumeration of the list. I shall only refer in a casual way to a few of the native and domestic grasses, which may be relied upon in this climate, and offer a few suggestions in favor of restricting the area of hoed crops, and enlarging the domain of grass.

It is claimed that a Bermuda sod will carry more stock to the acre than any other grass, but it is generally regarded as a summer grass and unfit for hay. There are records of remarkable mowings of Bermuda grass where the soil was fertilized. If a field is reserved for winter grassing, it will be found admirable for that purpose also. I mowed a piece of Bermuda in July and let it grow until frost. In January it was two feet high. The tops were yellow from frost, but it was green and succulent underneath, and was eaten with avidity by the cows, until the spring grass appeared.

This grass is unsurpassed as a renovator of worn out land.

The Southern planter has been taught that grass was his natural enemy. His efforts have been to totally destroy, rather than "to make two blades grow where only one had grown before." It has been hard for him to realize that any good can come out of grass, and it is only since sugar and cotton have proven unremunerative, that he is willing to consider the possibilities of grass.

The idea has prevailed that only wild and vicious grass will grow in our climate, but since the war the track of the invading army through the South may be traced by volunteer meadows of *clover*; *blue grass*, red top, orchard and Timothy. These *chance catches* of precious grasses, which are the pride and wealth of the North, scattered all over the South, prove conclusively the adaptability of our soil and climate to their growth. During the war a Northern regiment camped in the City Park of New Orleans. Last year I saw in a square adjoining the Park, Red clover as fine as grows in Kentucky. The old German who owns it, informed me that the ground was *seeded from Northern Hay*, fed to the cavalry, and that since the war he had annually, mowed two heavy crops from it. To-day in the Exposition grounds may be found patches of every domestic grass which is cultivated in the North.

Since the war, wafted upon the wings of the wind, there has come to the South, a queer little plant which has caught upon the railroad embankments, and covered the bare cuts through the yellow hills. It has followed the wagon tracks into the piney woods old fields, rooted out the broom sedge and stopped the washes and gulleys. It has fallen upon our fields, as noiselessly as the snow in the night, and fat horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, revel in its abundance. It takes hold on the poorest spots, sends down its roots into

the hard clay, and covers the earth with a grateful shade, slowly but surely renovating the worn out soil. Once established on the soil you may year after year continue to cut two tons of hay per acre, as it seeds itself. Men of science call this little plant *Lespedeza Striata* or Japan clover, and chemists pronounce it a richer food than red clover.

Grass is a sure foundation of agricultural prosperity, and hay is the leading agricultural product of the world. All other crops are local. Hay is universal. A few figures from the U. S. census of 1880 will show its preponderance. In this year the value in round numbers of all farm products in the United States, was \$2,212,500,000. The hay crop was 36,150,000 tons, worth \$527,250,000. This is more than twice the value of the cotton crop of that year. It is greater than the value of the corn crop. It is 1 2-3 the value of the wheat crop, and more than five times the value of the oat crop. If we add to the hay crop the value of grass grazed by live stock, and the products of meat, milk, butter and cheese, and put these to the credit of hay, we will find that the value of hay and grass consumed in the United States in 1880, was over \$1,000,000,000, and nearly one-half the value of the entire farm products of that year.

It is a remarkable fact that those countries in which the agricultural lands are the most valuable are most extensively devoted to grass. It will probably surprise some of my hearers to learn that the greater portion of the arable lands of England are in permanent meadows, and that the rental of an acre of such lands is twice the selling value of the land in this State.

A blue grass farm in Kentucky is worth from \$150 to \$300 per acre. Very few plantations in this State would sell for one-tenth that amount.

In conclusion I will call your attention to the case of Nebuckadnezzar. He ran after strange Gods until he was "turned out to grass." After seven years of grazing his reason returned unto him. *Verbum sat sapientibus.*

## OUR FORESTRY PROBLEM.

EXTRACTS FROM DR. FERNOW'S LECTURE  
—THE NEED FOR CARE AND  
PROTECTION.

Dr. B. E. Fernow, chief of the forestry division, agricultural department, delivered a lecture on "Our Forestry Problem" in the National Museum Hall. The forests of a country should be considered in a four-fold aspect: 1. As furnishers of raw material, 2. As regulators of climatic conditions. 3. As influencing the waterflow in springs, brooks and rivers. 4. As regulators of soil conditions. The lecturer said there is hardly any pursuit, any branch of human industry in which wood does not find application. The civilization and progress of development of the human race has been largely dependent on this material. To the assertion that substitutes for wood are easily found. Dr. Fernow replied that with every invention of a substitute new applications of wood are discovered, that with the growth of civilization the use of wood has grown, and that the growth of population increases constantly, and to keep pace with this increase and decrease substitutes will have to be found in greater ratio than at present. While the consumption of wood for fuel is decreasing by mineral coal, while the substitution of steel and iron for wooden railroad ties has begun, and iron and steel have largely supplanted wood in ship-building, in bridge-building, and in combination with stone in other construction, on the other hand the manufacture of cellulose, of paper, &c., makes new and increasing demands on the wood produc-

tion, while its area decreases. It may be also noteworthy that in the United States, the country which is richest in coal, and railroads to transport it, according to the last census, nearly three-quarters of the population used wood as fuel to the amount of about 17,000,000,000 cubic feet. Forestry, Dr. Fernow said, is a business like agriculture, which, like agriculture, becomes a necessity with the increase of civilization and population. Like rational agriculture, it proposes to utilize the forces of nature to the utmost without exhausting them. Speaking of forestry as a business, we find the soil, with the wood-growth on it, the forest capital. The essence of forestry lies in the manner of utilizing the crop without exhausting the soil or favorable conditions of growth. In conclusion, Dr. Fernow quotes from the celebrated naturalist, Fred. V. Muller, on the forestry question: "I regard the forest as an heritage given us by nature, not for spoil or to devastate, but to be wisely used, reverently honored and carefully maintained. I regard the forests as a gift, intrusted to any of us only for transient care during a short space of time, to be surrendered to posterity again as an unimpaired property, with increased riches in augmented blessings, to pass as a sacred patrimony from generation to generation."

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#### Something New.

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We are opening a new set of Subscription Books for the *Maryland Farmer* this month; and while our Subscribers have been quite prompt in paying up, yet we notice a few who have overlooked us, and are still indebted on the old books. We wish now specially to invite them to remit, so that their indebtedness will not have to be transferred into the new books. The amounts are small and we will expect every Subscriber who is in arrears to remit at once.

#### Commercial Fertilizers.

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The effects of a good fertilizer on any land should be apparent on the first crop raised, if Farmer's ideas and wishes are consulted. The crop, whether cereals, tobacco, cotton or vegetables, should assume a well nourished appearance, not otherwise obtainable. And among the chemicals needed for this purpose Soluble Phosphoric Acid ranks high, all crops requiring a large supply of this. The Farmer should seek this from such dealers as have gained an honorable reputation for the best fertilizers, prominent among them being the *old established* and responsible firm of MESSRS. R. J. BAKER & Co., No. 40 South Charles Street, Factory, Locust Point.

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#### Frederick County.

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At the last meeting of the Frederick County Agricultural Society a new board of management were selected.

The Frederick County Agricultural Society has for many years been among the most successful in our State. We have felt a great interest in its Fairs and annual gatherings, which have done an excellent work in every respect; so that those who retire from its management have reason to be gratified with the past. But Frederick County abounds in good and true men, and no doubt the new organization will emulate the success of the old. Let nothing of a merely personal character interfere with the prosperity of the new organization; but let every Farmer with hearty co-operation work to have the future even better than the excellent record of the past.

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Subscribe to the *MARYLAND FARMER* with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

## THE RICE BIRD PEST.

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SOUTHERN PLANTERS TO HAVE GOVERNMENT AID.

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RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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The department of agriculture is about to embark upon a new line of experiments which will doubtless prove exceedingly valuable to the Southern States if they are successful. The rice planters of South Carolina complain constantly of the enormous depredations of the rice birds which visit their plantations in millions every spring and autumn, causing immense damage to the rice fields. One gentleman having a plantation of about two thousand acres, in a letter to the chief ornithologist, reports that these birds never fail to put in an appearance on the 21st of August, and that in spite of all that can be done to drive them away, they cost him in money paid to "bird-minders" and for ammunition, together with the loss to his crops, not less than \$8000 a year. Officers of the department, who have made personal investigations into the ravages of these pests, confirm the reports of the amount of damage done, and have set about to discover an effectual method for suppressing the nuisance. It has been noticed that the appearance of a hawk in the air above the rice fields will cause the depredators to leave the field in an instant. Stuffed hawks suspended in the air from tall poles have been tried, and for a time they were of great service, but the birds soon became used to their appearance, and then their usefulness was gone. For some time negotiations have been pending between the department and a man who has had a great deal of experience in training hawks in Europe. It is proposed to have this man take a number of young birds and train them to kill the bobolinks, reed birds or rice birds, the same little rascal is

known by all these names at different seasons. If he succeeds, the "falcons" will be sent to South Carolina, and "falconry" will doubtless become as popular in the Palmetto State as it was in England in the days of Henry Hotspur. —*Ex.*

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

Articles of incorporation were upon the petition of eighty or more of the leading farmers of the county, granted by Judge Alvey to an association to be known as the Farmers' Club of Washington County. The incorporators are Hon. Wm. T. Hamilton, Edward W. Stake, Philip Wingert, John H. Harp and Wm. H. Armstrong. The directors for the first year are Wm. T. Hamilton, Wm. H. Armstrong, Jacob Cost, H. Clay Bentz, Joseph Deaner, John H. Cook, John W. Cable, Jos. E. Keedy, Henry Ranger, Edward W. Stake, John Harp and Jeremiah B. Cromer. The object of the corporation is to protect the interests of agriculture in Washington county, to promote enlightened methods of farming, and to disseminate useful information for farmers.

ED.—We print with a great deal of pleasure, the account of the formation of the Farmers' Club of Washington County. It is a good step in the right direction and we hope all the counties of our State will take courage to move in the same good way. We need independent bodies of this character in every part of the State, where the discussion of all agricultural subjects may come directly before the people and receive the candid views of all who may be interested in the premises.

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A good vinegar may be procured from the sugar beet by grating the root, expressing the juice into a barrel and allowing it to undergo fermentation in a warm place.

## FARMING IN MARYLAND.

THE CONDITION OF WINTER GRAINS IN  
THE COUNTIES.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The April report of the Agricultural Department on the condition of winter grain contains some points of interest to Maryland. The present condition and prospects of wheat in Maryland, by counties is reported as follows by the state agent:

Kent.—Better condition than in several years; average.

Allegany.—Well protected early in the winter, but much exposed lately.

Harford.—Not so well covered as last year; unfavorable.

Somerset.—Covered early in December for a week or two, since when there has been very little protection; weakly condition.

Queen Anne's.—Well protected early in winter and came up looking very green, but from January 15 had but little protection and suffered severely from constant freezing and thawing; badly thrown out on low ground.

Baltimore.—Protected from seven to ten weeks in early winter; no protection in last part; weak, small growth, and unfavorable prospect for a good crop owing to high winds, cold and lack of protection.

Cecil.—Fairly protected; not strong, especially where not of vigorous growth in the fall.

Dorchester.—Better than usual; backward except on fallows early sown and well fertilized.

Prince George.—While protected wheat did well, but during February and March considerable of it was winter-killed, while the remainder has made but little progress since.

Worcester.—There was not sufficient snow to be of material benefit; vigorous but backward.

Frederick.—Well protected about five weeks, but recently has been injured by freezing.

Wicomico.—Not much protected.

Carroll.—Covered four or five weeks; late sowing injured in December by cold; badly injured by severe March weather.

Washington.—Little protected; short.

Anne Arundel.—Protected during the severe cold in early winter, but seriously injured since by cold and high winds; never looked worse.

Charles.—Very poor; rarely so poor.

Garrett.—Well protected until January 20, since when but little snow; suffered from March freezes, but the prospect is fair.

Montgomery.—Protected in early winter, but exposed through February and March to alternate freezing and thawing, and continuous high winds; badly winter-killed, and a prospective failure unless there is a very favorable spring.

The state agent says of winter grain: The condition of wheat is very unfavorable. The time of seeding was later than in former years, owing to the bad state of the weather. Snow has been of little or no protection. The prospects of grain are gloomy, worse than for several years back, owing to the severe winter and spring and its many changes. Rye has withstood the unfavorable meteorologic condition being 92, against 96 last year.

## BREAD, BUTTER AND POETRY.

The Committee on Bread and Butter, at an Agricultural Fair, closed their report with the lines given below. There is a playfulness in them worthy of a moment's attention.

The girl engaged in moulding bread  
Shall make some sweet-heart flutter,  
With hope to get the dairy-maid  
To make his bread and butter.

She may not play the game croquet,  
Or French and German stutter,  
If well she knows the curd from whey,  
And make sweet bread and butter.

In meal and cream she's elbow deep,  
And cannot stop to putter;  
But says if he will sow and reap,  
She'll make his bread and butter.

The dairy-maid, the farmer's wife,  
 Shall be the toast we utter ;  
 Alone, man leads a crusty life,  
 Without good bread and butter.

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THE QUEEN OF PUDDINGS.

Take one quart of nice bread crumbs, add one quart of milk, one cup of sugar, the yolks of four eggs, well beaten, the rind of a fresh lemon grated fine, a piece of butter the size of an egg ; bake until done. Now beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, adding a teacup of powdered sugar in which has been previously stirred the juice of the lemon. Spread over the pudding a layer of jelly, (any kind to the taste), then pour the whites of the eggs over, and place in the oven until browned. Serve with cold cream.

This is the richest and best pudding ever made or ate. C.

ANTS.

In a cupboard infested with ants, I one day put a plate containing some flour on one of the shelves, and left it there for several days. I soon noticed that the little pests did not molest it in any way and concluded to receive some benefit from the knowledge. Accordingly I sprinkled wheat flour all over the shelves, pretty thickly too, and so far I am satisfied with the result. They find it a hard road to travel, and now we can put any article of food in that cupboard without fear of them. C.

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Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

Among the issues of the Orange Judd Co., New York, is a fine volume of 660 pages entitled *Every Man his own Veterinarian*. It is printed in the usual beautiful style of this company, and is of course a very desirable work for every Farmer. It will be a great addition to his books of reference and often save the employment of the Veterinary at great expense. Cushings & Bailey have it in Baltimore, price \$2.50.

*Horse Breeding*, Recollections by Count Lehndorff, containing very fine engravings of celebrated horses of the turf. In our country about 12,000,000 of horses are now in use, and the number is increasing annually. It is a great interest, which should be understood and appreciated by Farmers generally. Count Lehndorff, the manager of the government stud of Germany, has made a special study of the intricacies of horse breeding, and in the volume before us embodies the results of years of careful study. Every one interested in horses ought to own a copy of this valuable vade-mecum. Porter & Coates, Publishers, Philadelphia.

One of the most valuable works on *Technical Education in Industrial Pursuits*, by Dr. W. T. Barnard, has been issued by the B. & O. R. R. Company. Few treatises on any such subject have been as thorough as this one, and it is worthy of the study of every mechanic in our country. It deals in great facts, which are adapted to R. R. service ; but which are as truly applicable to every other employment.

The *Annual Report* of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1886, is a volume of 168 closely printed pages, containing a large amount of information on the several points which came under their experiments during that year. Space will not permit us to follow the line of experimentation ; but it has thrown safeguards around the Connecticut Farmers, for which they cannot be too thankful.

*Report 38, Department of Agriculture*, on the wheat product of the world, for March 1887.

*Reports from the Consuls* of the United States for February 1887.

*Report of the Fruit Growers Association of Ontario*, 1886, a series of phonographically reported discussions at their several meetings—very interesting reading.

*Educational Reporter—Extra*. An inquiry into the history and exploration at the head waters of the Mississippi since the discovery of Lake Itasca. 58 pages, with maps. Ivison, Blake-man & Co., New York and Chicago.

*Child Culture*, formerly American Kindergarten, for April.

*Pacific Fruit Grower*. The first number of a new Horticultural Journal for the Pacific Coast. Jos. Angeles, Cal.

# "ONE BY ONE."

## A DIREFUL AVALANCHE IN EVERY KNOWN ZONE.

### And Thousands of People Crushed by its Pitiless Power.

Far up the dizzy Alpine heights, above the line of perpetual frost, where the brilliant glitter of the snow under the midday sun seems only to intensify the cold, the Ice King would seem to hold undisputed sway. But even here there is at times a little humidity in the atmosphere of the more sheltered nooks.

The dry snow softens a little, the wind catches it up and tosses it about, and the star-like flakes are rolled into a tiny ball that the footsteps of a child might easily crush. Then comes the rude blast from the mountain top and drives the ball up and down the high valley and across the vast trackless fields of snow and ice. It gathers size and strength at every turn; hugh rocky boulders and mountains of ice are imbedded in the now slowly moving avalanche, which sooner or later descends with frightful velocity to the valley below.

The luckless village in its pathway is doomed! The air is thick with the falling snow! An awful rush! A roar reverberates through the mountains, and the little Swiss hamlet is swept away!

The foregoing is so applicable that we use it as an illustration. As the wind catches up the snow particles on the mountain tops so the heart catches up the blood as it passes from the kidneys and other organs, and sends it coursing through the system. As it rushes along it drops the uric acid that the unhealthy kidneys have left in the blood in the form of insoluble crystals, causing enlargement of the joints and intense inflammation in the system which is often called acute rheumatism. Eventually the joints enlarged by these crystals become stiff and painful. If these crystals are dropped in the liver they are called gallstones, if in the kidneys gravel, if in the bladder calculus or stone.

If this uric acid or kidney poison remains in solution in the blood it circulates throughout the system, causing irritation, which produces, according to the location of the irritation, pneumonia, consumption, hacking cough, heart disease, inflamma-

tions and fevers, skin disorders, paralysis, apoplexy, and makes the system susceptible to colds, chills, and all the other common disorders of which uric acid is the principal cause.

The little child upon the mountain top can crush in its tiny hand the first formation of the rushing avalanche.

So, too, the calamitous results noted can be as readily prevented if the right means are used at the right time.

"But how?" our readers may ask.

Listen and we will tell you. It is a fact of medical science that the kidneys are the chief blood purifiers of the system; the chief blood poisoner is uric acid which the kidneys alone can expel. If the thousand little hair-like sewer tubes of the kidneys, through which the entire blood supply passes, the same as through the heart, are diseased they cannot separate and expel this poisonous waste matter from the blood.

Now, as another matter of scientific fact, disease of these little sewer tubes is more common than of any other delicate part of the body, and it is because Warner's safe cure, gentle and natural in its action, has such wonderful power in preventing and curing disease of these all-important tubes, that it is recognized as a great scientific specific—a power possessed by no other such remedy on earth. When the kidneys, the only blood purifying organs, become inactive and diseased, any disorder to which the system is most liable may be expected.

Then it is that trouble begins, and the doctors fail miserably because they can only treat the *effects*—the cause is beyond their power! Hence it is that the proprietors of Warner's safe cure claim to cure so many apparently different diseases—it and it alone reaches and cures the cause, and then, of course, the effects disappear!

We incline to the belief that their theory is correct and so recognized by scientists who have given the object much study.

This frightful disorder is depopulating our homes faster than we are aware of. Like the avalanche of the mountain, it is causing the death of all with whom it comes in contact. It does not sweep away an entire village or hamlet at once, but one by one the people succumb to its piti-

less power. The final, or interminating, cause may be given another name and be so treated by various "experts," but the cause of all these effects, how many soever may they be, is the same, and for that cause there is but one rational form of treatment.

If you do not crush the avalanche as it is forming, in the manner indicated, it will certainly crush you!

Take your choice!

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#### Notice.

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WE with pleasure call the attention of our readers to the old established house of George O. Stevens, manufacturer of and dealer in doors, sash and blinds, frames, mouldings, brackets, mantles, &c., Nos. 115 and 117 Light Street, Baltimore.

All persons contemplating building will find it to their interest to call and examine this Stock before making any purchases elsewhere.

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C. SIDNEY NORRIS & Co., Manufacturers, Importers and Jobbers of Cabinet Hardware and Upholstery Goods, No. 36 Hanover Street. In presenting a brief Review of the representative Business house of our City, we take pleasure in Submitting the Establishment of Messrs. C. Sidney Norris & Co., as one eminently deserving of consideration. This House was founded forty years ago by C. Sidney Norris, and continued by him until death.

The Business afterward passed into the hands of Messrs. Richard Cromwell and Frank B. Sloan, who have since conducted it under the present firm Style. It is able to offer Buyers terms and prices that are unsurpassed.

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#### A GOOD WAY TO KEEP HAMS.

After the hams have been smoked take them down and thoroughly rub the flesh part with molasses; then hang up to dry. Hams treated in this manner will keep perfectly sweet, and free from insects.

#### SPRING MEETING OF THE MARYLAND JOCKY CLUB.

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The May meeting of this celebrated Club will be held as usual at Pimlico. It is one of the most popular race courses in the Union, giving entire satisfaction to turfmen from every section of the country, because of the excellent order and strict rules of impartiality enforced by the officers. This spring meeting will be one of the most brilliant for years, for it is expected such noted flyers as Volante, Tremont, The Bard, and some fine youngsters from the Maryland Stables will face the starter. Every lover of this sport in Maryland and adjoining States should come and help to make it a success. Hon. Oden Bowie is President, and Mr. Wheatley is Secretary.

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#### Flowers For Market.

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It is rapidly becoming a business of vast importance, with a large amount of money invested, wholesale commission and supply dealers, importers, jobbers and retailers.

It is no longer in the experimental stage and cannot be successfully conducted at random or by guess-work.

Competition and increased investment of capital have brought prices down as low as possible, and the man who does not manage his business carefully and systematically stands but a poor chance to succeed.

Foresight, energy and brains are what tell in the flower trade of to-day, and there is room in it yet for more men who are blessed with these requisites.

The man who raises the best flowers in the market of any variety is always pretty sure of good sales at good prices. With such perishable articles, which cannot be produced at will, there will always occur seasons of glut, and at such times it is the man that offers inferior stock who must first go to the wall.—WM. J. STEWART.

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## THE

## "MARYLAND FARMER"

## A STANDARD MAGAZINE,

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

Oldest Agricultural Journal in Maryland and  
for ten years the only one.

EZRA WHITMAN, Editor and Proprietor.

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## The Maryland Farmer Purchasing Agency.

THIS Agency has been some years in operation, increasing in usefulness each year, until it has become of great convenience and importance to the Farmer. In the hurry of the work upon the Farm, often some article is required, and if the Farmer has to leave his work and visit Baltimore to purchase the article wanted, it would be a great inconvenience and expense to him, while all that is now necessary, is, to enclose check, draft or Post office order to the "Maryland Farmer Agency," and the article wanted will be purchased and shipped at probably a less price and of better quality than the Farmer would have obtained had he come to Baltimore himself. Therefore the Agency has become of great value to Farmers throughout the South.

The Agency will guarantee that any article purchased will be at the lowest market price in Baltimore, and without charge for commission.